

July 31, 2001

FACT SHEET

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutant Emissions: Group IV Polymers and Resins - Final Denial of Petitions and Final Rule Amendments.

TODAY'S ACTION

- C The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking final action to deny petitions for reconsideration of the equipment leak provisions affecting facilities producing polyethylene terephthalate (PET) resins. The petitions were submitted by three PET producers.
- Known as Group IV, these provisions, part of an EPA 1996 Polymers and Resins rule, address leaks of hazardous air pollutants from components such as pumps, valves, connectors, and open ended lines. Hazardous air pollutants, or air toxics, are those pollutants known to or suspected of causing cancer or other serious health effects.
- C EPA is denying the petitions because its analysis of these provisions, based on additional data supplied by the affected industry, indicates that the equipment leak provisions can be reasonably implemented by facilities. However, this notice does provide a change in the leak definition for certain ethylene glycol pumps, which was one of the comments considered.
- C This notice also extends compliance dates for these affected facilities. As a result, the affected facilities will have more time to comply with the requirements of the equipment leak provisions.

BACKGROUND

- C Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to identify and regulate toxic air emissions from categories of industrial sources. EPA has identified Polymers and Resins as one of those categories. In determining how best to reduce emissions from this industrial category, EPA divided Polymers and Resins into four separate groups. Group IV refers to thermoplastic resins. Groups 1-3 refer to other types of resin, and have been controlled on a different schedule.
- On September 12, 1996, the EPA issued a regulation to reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants from thermoplastics production, which affected PET production facilities. These equipment leak provisions were based on the provisions of a previously issued regulation targeting emissions from the synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry (Hazardous Organic National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, commonly referred to as the HON).
 - After EPA issued the Group IV Polymers and Resins rule, two PET producers

submitted a petition to the Agency requesting reconsideration of the equipment leaks provisions of the rule affecting PET facilities. They also filed a petition requesting judicial review. The petition requested reconsideration of the technical basis for estimates of emissions, emissions reductions, and costs of equipment leaks emissions control at PET affected sources.

- C In August 1997, the petitioners provided EPA with new information to support their comments made during the public comment period for the Group IV Polymers and Resins rule. These comments questioned the validity of EPA's predictions of the costs and cost-per-Megagram of hazardous air pollutant emissions reductions of the leak detection and repair program. This new information, which EPA did not have prior to issuing the final rule, includes data related to emissions and costs. Consequently, EPA accepted the petitioners' request to reconsider leak provisions of the rule applicable to PET affected facilities. A second petition was later filed by another PET producer requesting the same relief.
- C On June 8, 1999, EPA issued a proposed denial of petition for reconsideration and notice of public hearing in order to provide public comment on the new equipment leak analysis. The leak analysis performed to support the proposed denial incorporated comments and additional data provided by the petitioners. Also on June 8, 1999, the EPA issued a direct final rule to extend the compliance dates of the equipment leak provisions for the PET affected sources. This extension was granted to allow time for comment on the proposed denial and for EPA to complete their analysis and issue a final action.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- C Interested parties with access to the Internet can obtain an electronic copy of the notice from EPA's web site on the Internet under "recent actions" at the following address:
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>. For questions concerning this action, contact your EPA Regional Office, or Keith Barnett of EPA's Office of Air Quality, Planning, and Standards at (919) 541-5605.